

MAY 1 1961

# ARKANSAS LIBRARIES



## Library Week Proclamation

To All to Whom These Presents  
Shall Come—Greetings:

Whereas, we live in a world which demands a re-dedication to the enduring intellectual and spiritual values essential to the progress of a free people in a free society; and

Whereas, our libraries make accessible the accumulated experience of all mankind, from which present and future generations may derive the wisdom and understanding vital to our national survival; and

Whereas, the development of lifetime reading habits are necessary for individual fulfillment and for achieving the highest qualities of citizen-capability; and

Whereas, the freedom to read is

the responsibility and privilege of all people in a democracy;

Now, therefore, I, Orval E. Faubus, Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the week of April 16-22, 1961, as

### Library Week

in Arkansas, and urge all citizens to unite in this national effort to achieve a better-read, better-informed America, to stimulate interest in libraries of all kinds—to the end that we realize the full potential of our national purpose.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed. Done in office in Little Rock this 4th day of April, 1961.

Orval E. Faubus, Governor  
State of Arkansas

Issued Quarterly

ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION

In Co-operation With

ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# Arkansas Libraries

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## ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION

506½ Center Street

Little Rock, Arkansas

FR 4-3954

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# ACROSS THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Freddy Schader\*



Miss Freddy Schader

Did you know that the Arkansas Library Association is celebrating its golden anniversary? It was founded fifty years ago on January 26, 1911 through the cooperation of Fort Smith and Little Rock librarians meeting at the then new Carnegie Library in Little Rock. The association has grown from a small membership to 575 members. Today's membership represents several different types of libraries in Arkansas. Had it not been for the vision of these early members of our association we could not join in celebrating National Library Week, April 16-22, 1961 with such a diversified and challenging array of activities in our libraries over the state.

The NLW theme this year is: "For a richer, fuller life—Read!" Special emphasis will be placed on school libraries and the development of life-

time reading habits in youth. Beginning April 5 and extending through April 14 the Arkansas State Department of Elementary Principals will conduct six regional workshops on "Improving the Elementary School Library." The workshops will be held in Fort Smith, Prescott, Little Rock, Monticello, West Memphis, and Mountain Home. Since Arkansas was selected as a pilot state in the School Library Development Project, Miss Mary Frances Kennon, director of the project, has helped plan the workshop program and will serve as consultant at the first three workshops.

On Saturday, April 22, the Education Committee of the Arkansas Library Association with Miss Allie Wilson as chairman, will meet at Henderson State Teacher's College in Arkadelphia. The Committee will review the undergraduate library science courses taught in Arkansas colleges, and make recommendations for any needed changes.

The Seventh Arkansas Book Fair will be coordinated this year with the Arkansas Festival of Arts, April 30-May 5. A collection of all book titles which have received the Newbery and Caldecott Awards, including the 1961 winners, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell and *Baboushka and the Three Kings* illustrated by Nicholas Sidjakov, will be on display at the Arts Center in MacArthur Park. The Children's Book Council of New York City will send 1500 new books suitable for grades 1-12 to be exhibited May 1-5 in the Vera Snook Room of the Little Rock Public Library. Prize winners from the statewide poster contest will be shown in the windows of downtown stores.

We hope you are planning to observe National Library Week in

\* Arkansas Library Association president. Miss Schader is administrative assistant. Arkansas Library Commission.

your own library, and that you will participate in some of the numerous statewide activities. At the same time, remember that you will be celebrating the golden anniversary of the Arkansas Library Association—

and helping to honor those pioneers of the library movement in Arkansas who organized our association fifty years ago to promote the extension and improvement of library services in the state.

### ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1911-1961

## THE OPPORTUNITY OF NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

By Paul McCain

Dr. McCain, president of Arkansas College, Batesville, is chairman of the State Citizens Committee for NLW in Arkansas.

Have you looked about in the reading room of the library and noticed the different people who may be reading or browsing? When a good percentage of the chairs are being used, you probably have a feeling of satisfaction. Wouldn't it be nice if all the chairs were filled most of the day? Your answer probably would be yes—but with some well-grounded reservations.

Such a popular library might well be your goal for National Library Week; however, I would hope that you might approach this special week with some other objectives.

Many of your readers may be in a rut in their selections. (I confess my book reading lies chiefly in four fields—higher education, history, religion and mysteries. These are but a few of the areas in which our local library has good books.) I would suggest that you seek to introduce your present readers to a wider variety of books. They will appreciate a well written, interesting book but would probably feel somewhat lost in selecting such a one.

Your second project could be to increase your patronage. How many of the parents of the children who come to your library also use the library? What about husbands or wives of your faithful readers? (My wife brings me home a book frequently.) You will find it easier to interest these people than those from families who never enter the library.

Does your community council have a welcoming service for newcomers? Perhaps its representative might agree to distribute without cost some leaflets explaining the benefit they can receive from their hometown library.

The citizens of Arkansas are fortunate in having such a fine library service provided by capable, alert and efficient librarians. National Library Week requires thought, planning and enthusiasm. Mrs. Terry Griffith, executive director for National Library Week in Arkansas, is only one of many librarians who will help Arkansas realize the objective of our theme, "For a richer, fuller life—Read!" As your readers may not vocalize their appreciation, I shall express their thanks in advance for your participation in making this week a success.

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*County Judge Ted Sanders  
and members of the*

*Searcy County Library Board  
cordially invite you to attend the  
Dedication and Opening  
of the new*

*Searcy County Library Building  
at 2 o'clock in the afternoon  
Sunday, April 23, 1961  
East Main Street, Marshall, Arkansas*

## FOR A RICHER, FULLER LIFE IN ARKANSAS OR ANYWHERE—READ!

By Mary Beth Griffith\*

National Library Week is fast becoming a year-round program with April 16-22 having been named as the period for the special 1961 observance. The challenging theme for the year is "A Better Read—Better Informed America." Chosen to be the highlight of the week in Arkansas is the dedication of the new Searcy County Library at Marshall April 23. The building is the gift of a native Arkansan, Jim Ferguson and his wife of Evanston, Illinois. Mr. Ferguson was born in Searcy County.

Heralding the Week a one-day session of the Arkansas Trustee Association is scheduled for April 11 in Little Rock. Honor guests for the occasion are Mrs. Raymond Young, Columbia, Missouri, president of the American Library Trustee Association, and Mrs. Weldon Lynch, Oakdale, Louisiana, vice-president of the Association.

Appropriate material sent to librarians in Arkansas by the National Library Week Headquarters, has in turn been passed on to the Citizen's Committees serving in the counties.

Miss Virginia Mathews, associate director of National Library Week, New York, was speaker and special consultant for a National Library Week Committee meeting in Little Rock, December 8. At the one-day conference goals—long range and specific—were discussed. She emphasized the ever present need to involve as many key people and local citizens in a community as is possible.

The Week is not an end in itself. It is a year-round effort, long range in effect, with a continuing program in more than 5,000 communities.

As your state executive director, I attended the meeting of the Southwestern Library Association in Tucson, the week of October 25 through 28, 1960, when the 1961 program of National Library Week was presented as a major factor in "a better-read, better-informed America."

Librarians in all type of libraries have spearheaded the observance of the Week which is giving a new importance to a "richer, fuller life through reading."

## THE ROLE OF EVERY LIBRARIAN IN LIBRARY SERVICE TO THE BLIND

By Adeline Franzel

Recently at a meeting of librarians from many types of libraries, I was amazed at a question someone asked me. "What should I say to a blind patron who might come into our library?" The first answer that came to mind was simply, "Welcome," but then I realized that some librarians not familiar with serving blind readers might wonder at their own part in this specialized field of library service.

Most librarians know that books for the blind for many years have been printed in a special type of raised dots called "Braille" developed by a blind Frenchman named Louis Braille. This way of reading is taught to blind children at school and may be learned by adults who lose their sight. Learning Braille is not difficult, but it requires long hours of practice not always available in our busy modern way of life. Then, too,

\*Mrs. Terry Griffith, state executive director for 1961, is librarian, White River Regional Library, with headquarters at Batesville.



Miss Adeline Franzel is Special Services librarian at the Oklahoma State Library. This Regional Library for the Blind serves blind children and adults in Arkansas and Oklahoma with braille books, talking books (books on records) and books on tape. She is shown with a patron, Raythel Jones, examining the newest catalogs and book lists available in ink print and Braille.

the increasing number of older blind people are often physically unable to acquire this skill, or simply unwilling to do so.

This is why the Talking Books (books on records) were developed to make it possible for all blind people to read by sound. A wide variety of

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books, magazines, and similar materials have been recorded to give blind people information, enjoyment, and a new measure of independence that comes from continually widening their horizons.

Books published in talking book form or in Braille are very expensive. Libraries would be completely unable to give adequate service in this area if left to their own budgetary limitations. Congress annually appropriates funds to insure uniform service to blind readers all over the country. The Library of Congress, through its Division for the Blind, utilizes thirty-one regional libraries as distribution agencies.

Talking book machines are also the property of the Library of Congress, but are available on free loan to individual blind readers by agencies for the blind that serve their own locality. A blind person who wishes to own his talking book machine may purchase one for his own use. Some records may also be purchased from special agencies, but most blind people borrow books and magazines from their regional library in a manner similar to that of other citizens who use their public library to enrich their lives in many ways.

The real difference lies in the fact that seldom can a blind reader visit his regional library. He selects books from printed or Braille catalogs, skillfully annotated to aid in selection, and furnished him by the Library of Congress. The books chosen are sent to him free through the mail in a special container and are returned to the library in the same way.

Generally one regional librarian for the blind serves many hundreds or even thousands of readers who live at a great distance from the library. Specially developed systems of

record-keeping are used to expedite getting the right book to the right reader at the right time, but guidance in choosing books is usually lacking. Any librarian may use the excellent Talking Book and Braille catalogs and special book lists available to give at the local level the reader's advisory service much needed by many blind persons.

If a blind person comes into your library **welcome him**. Help him by talking about books and programs that he **can** enjoy. Invite blind children and their parents, especially, to share in story hours, book talks, or other events. Eyes are but a part of a whole person and the needs that the blind patrons have are similar to those of persons who read with their eyes instead of with their fingers or ears. Here, indeed, is a stimulating opportunity for a librarian to use knowledge of books and knowledge of people to bring them both together.

Librarians willing to expand service to all people, children and adults, sighted or blind, can first of all seek out the blind patrons in their own community. See that they know about the special library program available for them and how they can benefit from it. Information and guidance is readily available from the regional librarian.

Once service is begun to a blind reader, he has continuing need for the same kind of reader's advisory service that all librarians can give. It is very rewarding to share the endless wealth of libraries with all American citizens, visually handicapped or not. If a blind person comes to your library, or if you know of one who can't come in, welcome him warmly and help him to open the door, by means of books, to a rich, full life.

NOTE: For catalogs, booklists and further information, please write to: the Oklahoma State Library, SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION, 109 State Capitol, Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma.

## DECISION IN THE DELTA: Part I

Lee County Tax Campaign; Or, Young Men Can Change the World

By Charles R. West\*

There's a story going around about a Yankee tourist who, while fretting up and down an Ozark stream in a vain attempt to catch some trout, came upon an old man surrounded by fish. The old man had none of the paraphernalia that burdened the tourist; all he had was a pole, a string, a minnow, and a jug. In mild amazement the Yankee sat down to observe. The minnow was tied to the string which was tied to the pole. Just before lowering the minnow into the water, the old man would dip it gingerly into the jug of mountain dew. Hardly had the minnow touched the water before there was a fierce struggle and another large fish landed. What was so unusual about this? Only one thing—the fish was in the minnow's mouth!

When the friends of the Marianna Library decided to launch a campaign for a one-mill library tax, they felt very much like the minnow—perhaps they had bitten off more than they could chew. If this fable has any moral, however, it must be that one should never underestimate the power of imagination (the old man's) and enthusiasm (the minnow's), not to mention the power of mountain dew.

Although our assets may be few, if we utilize them effectively we may astound ourselves with success. On the other hand, if we are oblivious to them we may fail as miserably as the Yankee tourist with all his artificial lures and imported rigmarole. Much depends upon how well we know our community. The characters of each community are as different as the personalities of the people who will be coming to grips

with community problems and finding solutions for them. My purpose is not to tell you, in general, how it's done, but to tell you, in particular, how we did it. My hope is to provide you who are planning a tax campaign with some usable insight.

Examine your situation. Ours was simple. What we needed was money! Three years ago the old 1/3-mill voluntary tax which had supported the Marianna Public Library was removed. The remnant of that fund was rapidly dissipated during the next two years. We had to stop buying books in order to keep our doors open. People almost forgot that there was a library in Lee County. Circulation dropped from 80 to 10 books a week. A Junior Auxiliary survey described an improved library as the most crying need of our community. Our Library Board was divided between those who felt that the library had a bleak future and those who felt that it had no future.

Some of us began to rouse ourselves and look about us. How had other communities solved their library problem? We read that West Memphis had a brand new municipal library and called Cecil Edmonds, its paternal protagonist, over to talk to us. Since Cecil was an active Jaycee, we invited the Board of Directors of our local Jaycees to meet with us. After listening sympathetically Cecil advised us that the only solution to our problem was a one-mill library tax.

This was the first time that the dirty word "tax" had been mentioned. A new tax would be about as popular as Johnson grass in this

\*Dr. West of Marianna, Arkansas, was a Rotary Foundation Fellow in 1949-50 at the University of Paris, France, where his major field of study was philosophy. He is the District Governor Nominee for Rotary District 615 for 1961-62 and will be installed in Tokyo at Rotary International Convention, May 28-June 3, 1961. He is a former member of the Marianna Public Library Board.



conservative agricultural community. Anyway, it was too late to circulate a petition in 1959, and therefore the Jaycees decided to lay the problem aside for a year. Maybe it would go away. In the meantime, they were undergoing growing pains; they changed administrations several times within the space of a few months.

Some, however, did not forget the library, and in the spring of 1960 the Marianna Jaycees asked Mrs. Mayo Harris, our city librarian, Mrs. Robert Hughey, president of our Library Board, and me to present our problems for discussion at one of their district conferences in Marianna. Other Jaycees from other towns had successfully put over "Operation Library," and they enthusiastically encouraged the Marianna group to take Cecil's brainchild on as a major project in 1960.

In April I attended the Workshop sponsored jointly by the Trustee Division of the Arkansas Library Association and the Arkansas Library Commission. This was the first time in many years, perhaps in history, that Lee County was represented at a meeting of this kind. My initial aversion toward being a thorn amongst roses, a single male midst a bevy of vivacious ladies, was soon dispelled. Most of the trustees whom I met had already successfully surmounted the trials and tribulations which confronted us. Their advice and suggestions, coupled with the professional recommendations of the A. L. C. staff, were all grist for my mill. The value of these meetings cannot be overestimated.

It was not until the first week of September that I appeared before a joint meeting of the Jaycees and Jaycettes to sell them on "Operation Library." This may seem inordinately late, but in our case we stood to profit from procrastination. Long, drawn-out campaigns have not proved very successful in Marianna since it is well-nigh impossible to maintain a high pitch of enthusiasm for any

length of time. Furthermore, a short campaign has the virtue of conserving man-and woman-power. If we lit the fire by circulating petitions in September, we could devote October to fanning the flames and, by election time, the fire would be burning brightest. Such was our strategy. Little did we know that in the ensuing campaign we would often generate far more heat than light—a situation to be avoided if at all possible.

I appeared before the Jaycees and Jaycettes just after having read the Jaycee Bible, **Young Men Can Change the World**. I was already sold on them. Theirs was the local service club which seemed uniquely adapted for the accomplishment of our mission. Having no vested interest in the library, they represented aroused citizenry. They also represented both the rural and urban areas, and both sexes. They had the youth, the organization, the energy and ability to put over the one-mill tax. Properly challenged they might yet generate the enthusiasm which this task called for. It was quite possible, even probable, that "Operation Library" would provide them with the unifying force that they seemed to need at this particular point in their development—a *raison d'être*, if you like. They did not have to be reminded of the difficulties of the task which lay ahead, or of the work involved. We discussed tax campaigns along the lines that the Arkansas Library Commission had suggested. Result: The Marianna Jaycees and Jaycettes voted unanimously to take "Operation Library" as their major project for the rest of the year. My parting words were borrowed from Cecil Edmonds: "The successful completion of this project will give you more personal satisfaction than any other project that you could possibly undertake at this time."

Before adjourning the Jaycees were organized for battle. President Glenn Hopper named Tom French as

chairman of the "Operation Library" Committee. Other committee members were Albert Wiggs, Allen Lindsey, "Buddy" Barker, Carroll Ray and John Oxner. Mrs. T. H. Barker, president of the Jaycettes, headed her own committee which was composed of Mrs. Charles Zink, Mrs. Donald Sparks, Mrs. Albert Wiggs and Mrs. Billy Lindsey.

Once organized these committees set up a task force to invade other civic organizations and accomplish the following: (1) acquire signatures on the petition, (2) explain the need for the one-mill tax and the provisions of the state library law, and (3) obtain their endorsements. This task force was usually composed of Mrs. Barker, who explained the woman's point of view, Tom French, who described the provisions of the Arkansas library law, and me. My function was to represent the library board and conduct the question-and-answer period. The State Library Commission provided us with training aids and literature to augment our presentation. During September and October, more than fifteen local clubs were contacted and endorsements rendered. We are particularly grateful for assistance given us by the Marianna-Lee County Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the P. T. A., Marianna Junior Auxiliary, and the Ministerial Alliance. The petition was completed and turned in to the county clerk during the first week of October. In November we stumped the county; meetings were held in school houses and country stores, wherever they would have us.

I would not like to leave the impression that we were always overwhelmingly successful in our bid for votes. On many occasions we received considerable static. All of our endorsements were not unanimous. Often the three of us came away discouraged, disillusioned, disconsolate. Our little crusade had its heroines. Fortunately, there were few villains. Our great enemy was the many-

headed hydra-apathy and lethargy, ignorance and indolence, indifference and do-nothingness. To us the lines were drawn: we represented the forces of light doing battle with the forces of darkness. We had enough confidence in the voters of Lee county to feel that if they understood the issues clearly they would surely vote for our library tax. Our mission was to educate.

Our mission was also an education. We probably learned far more from them than they from us. If recent elections have made you leery of the democratic processes then you should try stumping a county. It is truly an inspiration to see voters in overalls and starched gingham gathering together to hear the issues of an election aired. There issues are discussed intelligently and conscientiously and then, with the deliberation of generations of inbred individualism, **they make up their own minds.** It reaffirms one's faith in a democracy.

In Lee County we were fortunate in having a county paper which was ready to go to bat for a county library service. Although several clubs and individuals bought ads supporting the passage of the one-mill tax, the editors, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Caldwell, provided much free publicity in the way of editorials and news stories reporting the progress of the campaign. During the preliminary stages the COURIER had run a series of articles describing the dwindling funds and threatened closure of the library. This served to draw public sympathy to our cause and set the stage for our subsequent onslaught. In addition, the editors had consistently associated the library tax campaign with continued economic progress in Lee County. If we were to continue to attract industry we would have to provide a favorable cultural climate for its personnel.

The pace of the campaign quickened during the last brisk days of October. Frost fell. The COURIER

printed a "Letter to the Editor" denouncing "taxes, taxes and more taxes." The one-mill tax was singled out and bitterly attacked by an anonymous "tax-payer." Only one more paper would come out before the election. We could not afford to ignore the challenge. The irate "tax-payer" had given us the advantage of the last words—a five-column "Letter to the Editor" summarizing our campaign. For free!

The first week of November was hectic. The library tax was discussed in the home, in schools, at bridge parties, at ladies auxiliaries, in the pool room, over coffee, from the pulpit, at cocktails, on the streets and in the fields. If we had had a radio station, I am sure it would also have been discussed on the air.

To cushion me for disappointment, most of my friends confided that the tax had little chance of passing; the propertied people, the court house gang and the rural folk were all against it, they said. I spoke to a large number of the wealthier people in town. Only one or two of them were openly hostile to the tax, while many of them were heartily in favor of it. I may be naive, but I don't take much stock in the stories of political machines in Lee County. At any rate, I made a point of discussing the tax with a number of county officials and, although some had reservations about the tax, I was assured that none of them were campaigning against it. The absence of opposition was tantamount to endorsement. I knew that we would lose some votes of the country people, but I hoped we would break even in the outlying polls. Never having known the benefits of library service, they would be prone to skepticism; but ironically, they would be the ones who stood to profit most from it.

The last issue of the COURIER-INDEX before the election was full of ads favoring the library tax. Our campaign had been rather heavy and ponderous up until now, so we de-

cided to add a touch of levity by strewing the election issue with limericks. Some were affably affirmative while others were naughtily negative. Several are scattered through this issue of ARKANSAS LIBRARIES.

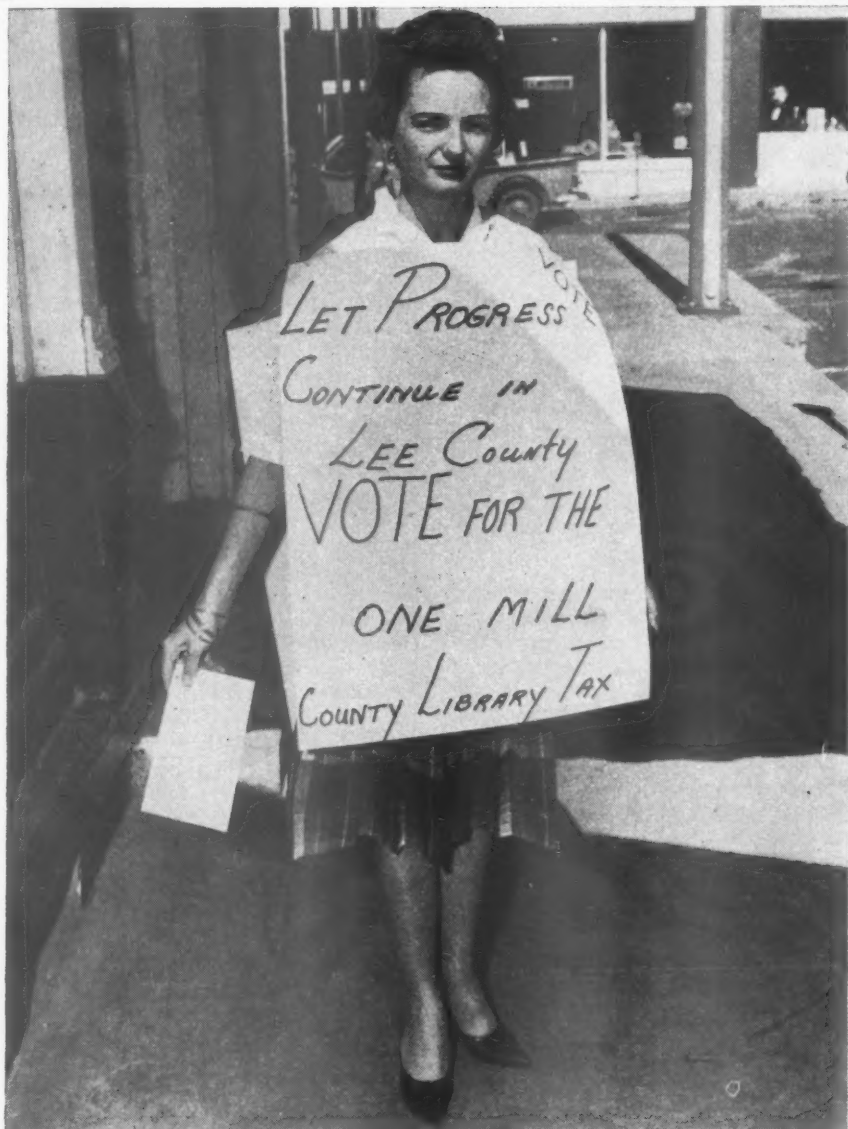
The day before the election we telephoned all the election judges, not to bribe them, but to be sure they understood the full implications of the library tax. The appearance of opposition had allowed us to consolidate our forces and reduce our campaign to Shakespearean simplicity: to be or not to be—to have or not to have a library. That was the question. If called upon, the judges could explain quite simply.

Election day dawned bright and blowzy. The Jayettes were stationed at every polling place with placards and sandwich-board advertisements. Car pools were prepared to drive the Golden Age Club and invalids to the polls. A big turn-out was expected because of interest in the presidential race. From dawn 'til dark the campaign never abated.

When I voted my own high hopes took a tailspin. Our tax measure was surrounded by a maze of amendments almost all of which were unpopular with Lee county voters. Would our people get carried away with voting "against" and forget to vote "for" the library tax? I left the polls with feelings of misgivings. Where had we made our mistake? Had we done all that we could do? Plans were already beginning to form in my mind for next year's campaign.

No positive results from the local election were expected until around midnight. I left a meeting and drove to a friend's home shortly after 10 o'clock to listen to election results on TV. By the time I arrived the Jaycees and Jayettes had telephoned from an impromptu victory celebration. The county clerk had told them that there were not enough untallied votes in the remaining precincts to offset a certain victory for the library

(Continued Story on Page 13)



The Jaycettes were stationed at every polling place with placards and sandwich-board advertisements.

Said an Ape as He Swung by  
His Tail  
To His Descendants Both  
Female and Male,  
"Read Good Books, My Dears,  
And in a Couple of Years  
May Evolve a Professor at Yale."  
C. West

A Local Man Known as Doodle-oo  
Was Smitten by a Librarian  
Named Toodle-oo  
She Showed Him the Way  
To Promotion and Pay  
Through the Use of Her  
Books and His Noodle-oo!  
C. West

tax. I could hardly believe my ears. As soon as I had recovered sufficiently I placed a long distance call to Mrs. Neal in Little Rock. She didn't seem to mind being roused out of bed for the glad tidings.

This is where I should end this account—on a note of joy. But ours is more truly a sombre beginning than a joyous ending. It is often easier to inaugurate something than to carry it to a successful conclusion. Although our County Library has been launched, it has not gone into orbit yet. But we are expecting it to. We will see that it does. We have the best county library board at the

controls that Haskell Adams, our conscientious and cooperative county judge, could choose. The board has hired a most capable librarian and assistant, Miss Mary Rives and Mrs. Mayo Harris. Together they are devising ways of serving our rural areas until a bookmobile can be purchased. Together they are reorganizing and renovating the old library quarters. Soon there will be a grand opening to which you are all invited.

The old city library is dead. The new county library is rising like a Phoenix from its ashes—more and better service for more and better Lee countians.

## FINE SERVICE OF NORTH ARKANSAS REGIONAL LIBRARY TO SIX COUNTIES

The extension of library service into the hills of the Ozarks has been a praiseworthy accomplishment during the past fifteen years. Books today are brought practically to the doorstep of each rural family, through the bookmobile or a local distributing center. The service is provided by a central regional library serving several counties (or by a county library of sufficient population size), and is financed by a small local tax and by contributing state and federal funds. Their facilities are stretched to the utmost because of widespread demand. Book reading may have fallen off in metropolitan centers but certainly is on the increase among the hill folks. The following article, written by the librarian of the North Arkansas Regional Library, whose headquarters is in Harrison, describes the operations in serving the people of six counties.

By Evelyn Griffiths\*

If anyone thinks that the job of a librarian is just sitting behind a desk and checking out books he should follow any of the staff members of the North Arkansas Regional Library around for a day.

This library serves the counties of Boone, Baxter, Carroll, Marion, Searcy and Newton in the Ozarks along the north boundary of Arkansas.

There are 60,000 people in these counties, scattered over 2,686 square miles and they read everything from light love and western to Plato and Tolstoi. The library owns about one-half book per person in the area, so it really takes some doing to get your one copy of Fox's Book of Martyrs, to a patron in Carroll county, the latest Erle Stanley Gardner mystery to a man in Marion county and a book on extra-sensory perception to a woman in Baxter county while they still want the books.

The fact that they do get the books and come back for more is shown by the circulation which has doubled in the last three years and now reached 166,886 during the year ending June 30, 1960.

Harrison, in Boone County is headquarters and the books go out from there to branches in each of the counties, also by bookmobile, deposits in country stores, schools and by mail. Most of the time the staff members are kept busy transferring books from one place to another because there are never enough books to go around. By moving them from one

\*This article is here reprinted as it originally appeared in THE OZARKS MOUNTAINEER for November, 1960. Mrs. D. G. Griffiths is North Arkansas Regional librarian, with headquarters at Harrison.



place to another everyone gets a chance at them.

The North Arkansas Regional Library was formed by four counties in 1944 and struggled along for years, wearing out books almost as rapidly as they added new ones. In 1957, however, they were selected as the first library in Arkansas to receive funds from the federal Library Services Act, if they would agree to add two nearby counties and provide adequate headquarters.

After investigating all tax sources available and finding all of them pledged, the Woman's Book Club of Harrison, which had provided library service and a building since the early days of the century, and had furnished the initial collection for the Boone County Library, decided to start a campaign for funds for a new library building. They made arrangements to sell their old building as a down payment on a new one.

The story of how this club organized a drive for funds and carried it through to the completion of one of the best planned small libraries in the Ozarks, is a classic in cooperation. Funds were raised by clubs and schools. There were individual donations of money. Hundreds of dollars were raised at a radio auction. Civic groups gave shows. Home demonstration clubs gave quilts and other hand made items. The entire community effort was one of the strong points that won the community achievement award in the state contest in 1957.

The new building was dedicated in June, 1959. Bookmobile service had been started the fall before. Three new staff members were added and several thousand new books were placed in the collection. Book fairs were held, and other events were scheduled which brought many people into the library. Every unit began to check out more books. Books loaned to schools were taken to

branches during the summer months and then taken back to headquarters where schools could have some to select from in the fall. The bookmobile selected the small schools along its route and worked them in to its schedule so that these children would gain library experience.

What does a librarian do? The head librarian orders books, visits each branch regularly, handles the finances, makes out the payroll, keeps books, makes the budget, writes the publicity, supervises the school collection, trains branch clerks and tries to keep the book collection balanced at each branch; she tries to answer the reference questions if the others fail. She makes talks to civic groups and plans events in which the library takes part.

The bookmobile librarian plans her schedule and sees that it is maintained. She sees that her collection is kept in order for the varied demands and tries to fill the requests that she gets. The bookmobile driver assists as clerk and keeps the delivery truck on the road on the days the bookmobile is not scheduled for trips.

The other three on the regional staff are constantly on their toes trying to keep above the flood of incoming and outgoing books. Harrison branch at headquarters checks out a monthly average of 6,000 books, at the same time books have to be checked in and shelved and kept in order. Requests are constant and often have to be mailed. Books are repaired. Some books have to be cataloged but most of this is done at the Arkansas Library Commission which established centralized cataloging with funds from the Library Services Act. More than half the books are checked to adults. Schools have improved their own libraries and children are reading more than before. Retired people who have moved into the area are having time to read in their fields of interest. Business men and professional people



have learned to come to the library for help.

The problem of the North Arkansas Regional Library is not in getting people interested in reading but in

trying to keep up with the needs and wants of those coming to the library in ever increasing numbers. The combination of good books and service makes a good library. And a good library is what we seek today.

## ALL ABOARD! LOUISIANA BOUND

By Marguerite Amonette\*

"All Aboard!" called Wayne Bailey, bus driver of the chartered bus, bound for Monroe, Louisiana. When the call sounded on March 2, thirty-eight librarians and trustees of public libraries in Arkansas scurried from coffee shop and taxicabs at the bus depot.

Miss Frances Flanders, head librarian of Ouachita Parish, had extended to Arkansas librarians an invitation to visit the three new libraries in her parish. Mrs. Calvin Snow, Arkansas River Valley regional librarian, who is chairman of the state library association's Public Library Division, directed the trip.

En route to Monroe from Little Rock, we visited four Arkansas libraries and one Louisiana library.

Our first stop was at the Dumas Branch library, where we were graciously received by the librarian, Mrs. T. W. Eastham, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and representative of other civic organizations. Dumas citizens have a right to be proud of their attractive new building. An interesting architectural feature is the corner window, a narrow indented, or inset, casement type window, reaching from the floor to the ceiling. Camellias pinned on us at the Dumas library were excelled by none.

Arriving at the McGehee Library at 3 p. m. we were refreshed with coffee and cake. To those of us who had been traveling since 7 a. m. or earlier (Miss Pearl Williamson started at 6 a. m.) this was most welcome.

A substantial brick building which formerly housed the telephone office in McGehee has been converted into an attractive library by civic-minded people. Every organization in town was represented at the open house. Among those present were Mrs. J. W. Jones, librarian; Mrs. Jim Merritt, Arkansas Library Commission member; Mrs. I. C. Oxner, chairman, Trustee Division of the Arkansas Library Association; Mrs. G. L. Hall, board chairman, Southeast Regional Library; Judge and Mrs. J. L. Erwin, Joe Crowder, mayor of McGehee and other civic representatives.

At the Dermott Branch Library we were greeted by Mrs. Frances Crockett, librarian, Mrs. John F. Gibson and Mr. T. M. Ross, trustees of Chicot County Library, and others. The library consists of a room in the city building in which every inch of space is being utilized. For example: The easy books were arranged on the lowest shelves, with bright colored plastic pillows stored under the shelf to be pulled out for seats for the youngsters.

Our last stop in Arkansas was at the Ashley County Library in Hamburg. Here the librarian, Mrs. Ann Veazey, and the library trustees showed us through the beautiful new brick building, with its tasteful decor evidenced in draperies, walls, and furnishings.

We arrived at Bastrop in time to visit the library before dinner. Their building, constructed twenty-one years ago, is still in excellent condition. The addition of an auditorium

\*Mrs. S. E. Amonette, librarian, Southwest Regional Library with headquarters at Nashville, is secretary of the Public Library Division, Arkansas Library Association.

is to be the next project for this library.

Mrs. Lou Venia Jones, Bastrop librarian, and several library staff members and Bastrop civic leaders joined our group for dinner at the hotel.

Arriving in Monroe for the night, thirty-eight weary Arkansas travelers checked in at Hotel Frances and breakfasted there next morning.

At 8:30 on Friday morning, March 3, we began our visit of libraries in Ouachita Parish by going first to the Anna Myer Branch. The staff here includes Gardenia, a beautiful white cat, who progressed from table to table as we went along. The glass cloth finish of the interior walls makes this branch library unusually attractive. For the second time since leaving Little Rock, we had camellias pinned on us.

From 10-10:30 a. m. in the meeting room of the main library building coffee was served by members of the library's Board of Control. Both branches also have these convenient "meeting" rooms.

The traveling librarians gathered ideas also from the streamlined charging system, from bulletin boards and special displays. Architecture and furniture in all the library buildings we saw are both beautiful and functional.

After touring the main library building we lunched at the Piccadilly cafeteria as guests of Mitchell Montgomery, president of the parish Police Jury (the Louisiana equivalent of the Arkansas quorum courts).

In the afternoon, we finished our tour of Ouachita Parish libraries with a visit to the West Monroe Branch. Its conference room overlooks an interesting garden in a court yard created by the L-shape construction of the library building.

As a special treat, Miss Flanders had arranged for us to tour the private gardens of Miss Emma Louise

Biedenharn, a renowned singer whose father bottled the first Coca-Cola. Miss Biedenharn was personally at hand to greet us, and the electrical music box did its part in creating just the right atmosphere as we followed the garden paths.

We had a conducted tour through house and garden on the estate of former Governor and Mrs. James A. Noe, by their daughter. Among many things of historical interest which we saw at "Nosegay" was General Chennault's pipe which he had left while on a visit with the Noes.

The picturesque lakeside home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Woods, Sr., was the last stop on our tour in Monroe. It would take a book to describe the things of cultural interest in these homes! Fascinating thing about the Woods estate was the swimming pool just off the back terrace.

But this was by no means the end of the tale! At Hamburg, Mrs. Ann Veazey and the Ashley County Library trustees treated us to a delicious smorgasbord dinner at the Country Club. We were treated royally here, being seated at a long table with wood fires burning in huge fireplaces at either end. During the dinner hour we also watched ourselves on television, as we appeared during the visit to Monroe's main library building.

At Monticello librarian Mrs. Ruth Goynes and the trustees and staff of the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library guided us through their attractive headquarters building.

If I had been either artist or architect, I could have come home with a wealth of sketches — as did Mrs. Sophia McCoy, library trustee from Stuttgart—who is interested in a new library building for her town.

Since I cannot give you the story in pictures, I have been doing the next best—that is, trying to tell you about our trip in **word pictures**. I hope I have been able to make you **see** what a fine trip we really had!

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

By Thekla Decker\*

The newly-made librarian asked the ALA membership recruiter, "Why should I pay all that money to some organization away off in Chicago? What good will it do me?"

Well, what good will it do her? Certainly this is a valid question to ask in an age when empiricism is the method of judging much that we call modern civilization. In this day of achievement tests, of job performance standards, of work efficiency surveys, how does the ALA rate?

It is rather pointless to list specific items and say that but for the ALA we would not have had such and such benefits. For the advantages gained for us by the ALA are subtle and cumulative as often as they are direct and immediate. Take salaries and fringe benefits, for instance. The ALA has worked steadily through the years on the many factors involved in this field. But, I wonder how much librarians' salaries have been affected just by the fact that the ALA exists? The very size of the organization with its seeming remoteness from the concerns of a new librarian has given our occupation professional prestige that is reflected in salaries as well as other material benefits. And what is true of librarians and their jobs is also true of libraries and their functions.

These material benefits I tend to accept as my due as a librarian irrespective of ALA membership. But there are some much more valuable though intangible benefits that can come only to an ALA member. There

is the feeling of belonging that comes of being a part of a progressive, growing, lively profession recognized by the community as one of importance and influence. There is the feeling of knowing that you have the moral support of others who understand your problems when times of crisis concerning vital issues bring difficulties that seem insurmountable. There is the feeling of mission that comes of knowing that others are devoting their time and efforts to a vision of service that is almost forgotten as we clutter our thoughts with a mass of daily detail.

If our salary is our due, that may well be all that we will get if all we do is pay dues to the ALA; The other benefits have to be earned; they can't be bought. Do you read the official ALA publications? This is where you will get acquainted with your co-workers: what they are doing; what they are thinking. Do you attend meetings and conferences so that you can meet these people personally? To keep the organization alive and vital we need new ideas, new influences, fresh enthusiasm. Do you contribute new ideas and enthusiasms to group discussions at meetings, in letters to the editor commenting on professional articles, in questions to ALA officers? Do you vote for the officers who administer the business of ALA? Why not take on offices or assignments for the good of the order when possible? Are you a custodian of books, or a professional librarian?

What's in it for you? How much have you put into it?

\*Miss Decker, librarian, Veterans Administration Hospital, Fayetteville, is a member of ALA Membership Committee in Arkansas.



Shown visiting White House Conference on Aging ALA-MLA exhibit located in the Statler-Hilton hotel (January 9-12, 1961) are Miss Mary M. Klein, reference librarian, Trinity College Library (left), who represented the Catholic Library Association at the conference; Miss Janice Saddler of New York City, delegate representing the United Church Women; and Mrs. Almon Faught, trustee, Arkansas Library Commission, Jonesboro, Arkansas, who manned the exhibit. The exhibit was a joint effort of the American Library Association and the Maryland Library Association and was under the direction of Miss Louise Hinkley, Baltimore County Library. (Photo furnished through courtesy of American Library Association.)

## NEW FRONTIER IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

By La Nell Compton\*

It seems entirely fitting and proper that librarians—book-minded specialists on the modern social frontier—should conspicuously share in the first national conference called to delineate what has rightfully been named a new frontier in human development. We are proud to have been represented at the White House Conference on Aging (Washington, D. C., January 9-12) by Mrs. Almon Faught, Jonesboro, trustee, Arkansas Library Commission. Attendance of twenty-six leading U. S. librarians among 2,512 delegates was reflected in the fact that libraries were included in three final policy statements of the conference.

Increasing public concern and interest in the potentialities of an expanding human life expectancy are naturally the subject of a growing number of books published. Dr. Wilma Donahue of the University of Michigan is the author of **Education for Later Maturity**, published by Morrow in 1955. She is co-author with Clark Tibbitts of **Aging in Today's Society**, published by Prentice-Hall in 1960. Dr. Smiley Blanton approached the problem from his popularized viewpoint in **Now or Never: the Promise of the Middle Years**, which Prentice-Hall published in 1959. These titles and many more like them are steadily pointing the way to new horizons.

Also useful as compendiums of information in different segments of

the entire subject area on aging are the background papers prepared under the direction of committees of the WHCA—National Advisory Committee, of which ALA's Mrs. Grace Stevenson is a member. There are twenty pamphlets to the set, and material covered ranges from types of housing to recreation and religious interests of the aging. The Arkansas Library Commission has received and cataloged copies of the background papers for this first national conference on aging. Do you have any reference questions?

There Once Was a Gentleman  
from Lee

Who Said as He Walked Up to Me  
"I'll Sure VOTE That Mill  
For the Library Till  
So My Kids Can Read Good  
Books for Free!"

J. Mann

There Once Was a Bloke in the  
Town of M

(I'm sure you've seen a great deal  
of him)

He Cussed Education  
In Fierce Irritation  
'Til Down Came a Squirrel for  
a Meal of Him!

C. West

\*Miss Compton is cataloger at the Arkansas Library Commission and editor of **Arkansas Libraries**.

## TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARKANSAS STUDENT LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION

Miss Donna Smith of Magnolia is the new president of the Arkansas Student Librarians' Association. She was elected at the annual state convention at Hot Springs, March 18. More than 750 students from 98 high schools attended the one-day conference.

Other officers are Miss Sara Lynn Fleming of Fayetteville, first vice president; Danny Gardner of Jacksonville, second vice president; Miss Pat Harvey of Clarksville, treasurer, and Miss Linda Robinson of Gurdon, secretary.

The program consisted of an hour devoted to various discussion groups. Leaders of the group discussing librarianship were Miss Allie Wilson, librarian, Henderson State Teachers College, Arkadelphia, and Miss Gladys Sachse, assistant librarian, Arkansas State Teachers College, Conway.

Sponsors of the student library association are Mrs. Anne Jackson, Arkansas Library Commission and Dean Whiteside, Arkansas State Department of Education.

## TEN MONEY AWARDS TO SMALL LIBRARIES DURING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Harry Scherman, chairman of the board of the Book-of-the-Month Club, announced today the winner of the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Library Award for 1961, an annual grant of \$5,000 to a small library for the purchase of books. The Award this year goes to the Yuma City-County Library of Yuma, Arizona.

The Award will be formally presented in Yuma on April 15, the inaugural Saturday of National Library Week. William L. Shirer will be the guest speaker. A distinguished author, commentator, and correspondent, Mr. Shirer's most recent book, **The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich**, has been praised by critics from coast to coast as "one of the most important works of history of our time."

Mr. Scherman also announced that in addition to the principal Award of \$5,000, nine supplementary awards of \$1,000 each will be made to nine separate communities: the Wethersfield Public Library in Wethersfield, Connecticut; the Public Library of International Falls in International Falls, Minnesota; the Conrad Public Library in Conrad, Montana; the Tu-

pelo Unit of the Lee-Itawamba Library System in Tupelo, Mississippi; the Cordelia B. Preston Memorial Library in Orleans, Nebraska; the Grafton Library Cooperative, a group of six libraries in Grafton County, New Hampshire; the Gallup Public Library in Gallup, New Mexico; the Holmes County Library in Millersburg, Ohio, and the Greenwood City and County Library in Greenwood, South Carolina.

In selecting the Yuma City-County Library as the principal Award winner from seventy-six libraries which applied, the Club was guided by a committee representing the Public Library Association, a division of the American Library Association.

The Club, and the committee, were particularly impressed by the strong community support received by the Yuma City-County Library, the example of leadership provided by the staff of the Yuma Library to the entire state of Arizona, the library's remarkable progress since becoming a city-county library only two years ago, and finally, the high circulation of books within the community in



comparison with the total population and the stock available.

In addition to the presentation in Yuma, on this same day, April 15, official ceremonies will be held simultaneously in each of the other nine supplementary award winning communities. At each of these cere-

monies a distinguished author, or an eminent figure from the library or literary world, will appear as guest speaker.

The communities which received a \$1,000 award in 1960 included Greenwood, Arkansas (Scott-Sebastian Regional Library).

## SCHOLARSHIP IN LIBRARIANSHIP

The Southwestern Library Association announces a scholarship in librarianship for the academic year 1961-62. A scholarship of \$750 will be awarded to an applicant from the Southwestern region — Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas — for one year's full-time study towards the M.S.L.S. degree or its equivalent at an accredited professional library school for the academic year of 1961-62.

Scholarship applicants must at least be provisionally admitted in ad-

vance of application by the library schools of their choice.

For further information and application forms write to:

Marvin A. Miller, Chairman  
SWLA Scholarship Committee  
University of Arkansas Library  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Applications must be received on or before April 15, 1961.

## TRUSTEES AND LIBRARIANS WILL BE INTERESTED IN GRANT FROM COUNCIL ON LIBRARY RESOURCES

A \$60,040 grant from the Council on Library Resources, Inc., Washington, D. C., has been received by A.L.A. for use in aiding trustees and librarians in small communities to improve library service. Nearly 6,000 of the nation's 7,500 public libraries serve populations of 5,000 persons or less. Few of these smaller libraries have professionally trained staffs, and they all have difficulty in keeping in touch with the sources of information and ideas for improving their work.

The two-year A.L.A. project being conducted under the general direction of the Library Administration Division will seek to help these libraries by preparation and distribution of a series of pamphlets. The pamphlets will describe basic policy issues for study and action by library trustees, and will provide guides for

librarians without professional training on such subjects as book collection, community work, administration, and the library building. The reference manuals will constitute a manual of small library practice.

A series of multilithed "do-it-yourself" aids for community librarians on such subjects as basic book lists, service program outlines, basic reference procedures, sample press releases, suggested forms to simplify work, sample staff schedules, sample budget requests, and recruitment and training of volunteer help, is also planned.

The publications will be distributed, as issued, to all libraries in small communities through state library agencies and library systems working with state agencies.

In 1956, the A.L.A. adopted a new set of public library standards, the



cornerstone of which was the recommendation that libraries work together in systems in which the smaller libraries could draw upon the

resources and experience of the larger libraries. This long range recommendation will be stressed in the publishing program.

## NEWS NOTES

**Mrs. Sylvia Mills** has joined the staff of the Arkansas Library Commission as assistant librarian in the circulation and reference departments. She is a graduate of George Peabody College School of Library Science, Nashville, Tennessee. She was formerly high school librarian at Stuttgart and Humphrey.

**Mr. and Mrs. John Massey** announce the birth of a son, John Massey, Jr., on March 6, 1961. Mrs. Massey served as assistant librarian in the circulation and reference departments of the Commission headquarters library, 1959-60.

**Miss Esther Webber**, who has served as librarian of the Folsom Memorial Library, Brinkley, for a year and a half has resigned to accept a position as secretary at the Rice Growers Bank in Wheatley. The trustees and board of the Folsom Memorial Library made a statement praising Miss Webber for her accomplishments as librarian. They have since announced the appointment of Mrs. Lew Sorrels to the position.

**The Pulaski County Library Board of Trustees** has established a book fund in memory of Mrs. Dora Hopkins, long time Mabelvale school teacher and community leader, who died February 8 at the age of 86. Mrs. Hopkins was an aunt of Miss Mary Sue Shepherd, Pulaski County librarian. Contributions to the book fund should be addressed to Mrs. Ben C. Isgrig, Board treasurer, in care of the Library.

**Mrs. Virginia Safford Bristow** of Little Rock died at her home, March 1, 1961. Mrs. Bristow was the mother of Mrs. Margaret B. Burkhead, ad-

ministrator of the Little Rock Public Library.

**Mrs. Robert Pitts**, order and reference librarian of the Arkansas Library Commission is Arkansas' representative on the Notable Books Council of the Adult Services Division of American Library Association. The present annual listing of Outstanding Books of 1960 reflects a shift toward factual books and includes categories such as art, poetry, literature, education, public affairs, history and fiction. Miss Florene Jordan, librarian, Columbia-LaFayette Regional library with headquarters at Magnolia will participate next year in choosing 1961 Notable Books as a member of the Notable Books Council.

The cities of **Springdale, Fordyce, Mountain View** and **Magazine** were announced top winners in the eleventh annual Arkansas Community Accomplishment Contest on March 8. All of these cities are participating in successfully operating systems of library service—region-wide or county-wide.

**Mrs. Elaine Simpson Yoneshigo**, New York, formerly of Paragould, has been recently elected president of the New York State Library Association. A graduate of Arkansas State College, Jonesboro, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and Columbia University, Mrs. Yoneshigo is now specialist for secondary schools in the New York Public Library.

A prominent feature of considerable length appearing in the twenty-sixth annual "Oil and Industrial Edition" of the **El Dorado (Ark.) Daily News** on February 26, pointed out that "**Barton Library is Proving 'B'**

is Still for 'Book.' " The feature was written by Miss Clayte Whitten.

During the Christmas holidays the **Arkansas Book Fair** books were divided into two Book Fairs of approximately 700 books each. One fair has traveled South of Little Rock and one fair has traveled North of Little Rock. During this quarter the books have been shown at the Southwestern Regional Library in Nashville; Sylvan Hills High School, North Little Rock; North Malvern School, Malvern; Levy School, Levy; Clarendon Elementary School, Clarendon; Dunbar Junior High School, Little Rock; Lakeside Elementary School, Lake Village; Booneville High School, Booneville; Clarksville High School,

Clarksville; L. W. Baldwin School, Paragould; Ola High School, Ola; Russellville High School, Russellville; New Edinburg School, New Edinburg; Eureka Springs High School, Eureka Springs; Bradley County High School, Warren; Danville High School, Danville; Charleston High School, Charleston; and Dierks High School, Dierks.

An Industry in Search of Location  
Explained to the Lee Delegation:  
"Your Schools Are Fine,  
Your Churches Divine,  
But Your Library's in  
Need of Salvation."

C. West

#### REMEMBER THESE DATES:

National Library Week	April 16-22
Arkansas State Festival of Arts Little Rock	April 30-May 6
Arkansas Book Fair, Little Rock Public Library	May 1-5
American Library Association, Cleveland, Ohio	July 9-15
Arkansas Library Association, Little Rock	October 1-3



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in the Arkansas Library Association, 1961.

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Library position

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Date

ARKANSAS LIBRARY COMMISSION  
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LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

3



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Department of Library Science  
Ann Arbor, Michigan~~

